

In the claims

1. (Currently Amended) A system for permitting a user to remotely access data, comprising:

a systems interface to a plurality of legacy systems, the systems interface comprising a first server for managing protocol and a second server for generating legacy transactions, and a firewall that protects the first server and the second server, wherein the protocol server provides multiple operations that may be utilized for generating the legacy transactions, wherein the legacy systems comprise at least one of a loop facility assignment control system, a loop maintenance operations system, a mechanized loop testing system, a secure network element contract server, a mechanized time reporting system, and a work activity statistical sampling plan;

a computer operable by the user to access data from the legacy systems through the systems interface, wherein the computer is programmed with a client application for accessing the systems interface, wherein the client application provides a graphical user interface that has a page for selecting one of the multiple operations provided by the protocol server for the client application, and has a page for each of the multiple operations wherein ~~the~~ when an operation is selected the corresponding page is displayed, and wherein the client application is adapted to format requests for information based on user input within one of the pages corresponding to one of the multiple operations;

a voice input device coupled to the computer;

wherein the computer is further programmed with a speech recognition application for receiving voice input from a user, wherein the speech recognition application is adapted to convert the voice input into data recognized by the client application, and wherein the speech recognition application has, ~~in advance of the user accessing each of the pages,~~ a voice module that accesses a stored separate vocabulary for each of the pages for selecting and performing the multiple operations utilized for generating the legacy transactions on the legacy systems ~~including a vocabulary for each of the pages corresponding to the multiple operations provided by the protocol server such that the speech recognition application utilizes the voice module corresponding to~~

~~the page that is displayed by the client application upon the user selecting the corresponding operation.~~

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the computer logs into the first server over a wireless communications network.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the computer logs into the first server over a wireline communications network.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the data recognized by the client application includes selection of an operation and information completing a data field for the operation.

5-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A system for permitting a user to remotely access data, comprising:

means for providing an interface to a plurality of legacy systems, wherein the means for providing an interface includes at least one firewall that protects the means for providing an interface from the legacy systems, wherein the means for providing an interface provides multiple operations that may be utilized for generating transactions with the legacy systems, wherein the legacy systems comprise at least one of a loop facility assignment control system, a loop maintenance operations system, a mechanized loop testing system, a secure network element contract server, a mechanized time reporting system, and a work activity statistical sampling plan;

a computer operable by the user to retrieve data from the legacy systems by sending user requests to the means for providing an interface, wherein the computer includes a voice input device;

a communications link coupling the computer and the means for providing an interface;

wherein the computer is programmed with client software for converting user input into user requests wherein the client software provides a graphical user interface that has a page for selecting one of the multiple operations provided by the means for providing an interface for the client application and has a page for each of the multiple operations wherein the when an operation is selected the corresponding page is displayed, and speech recognition software for converting voice input into user input, and wherein the speech recognition software has, ~~in advance of the user accessing each of the pages,~~ a voice module that accesses a stored separate vocabulary for each of the pages for selecting and performing the multiple operations utilized for generating the legacy transactions on the legacy systems including a vocabulary for each of the pages corresponding to the multiple operations provided by the protocol server such that the ~~speech recognition application utilizes the voice module corresponding to the page that is displayed by the client application upon the user selecting the corresponding operation.~~

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the user input comprises the selection of an operation or the input of information into a data field for the operation.

9. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the user requests are processed by the means for providing an interface in order to generate legacy transactions.

10. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the means for providing an interface comprises a protocol server and a transaction server.

11. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the protocol server receives the user requests and forwards the user requests to the transaction server, and wherein the transaction server generates legacy transactions based on the user requests, receives the requested information based on the legacy transactions, and forwards the requested information to the protocol server.

12. (Currently Amended) A system for remotely accessing legacy data from a plurality of legacy systems, comprising:

a voice input device;

a modem;

a systems interface in communication with the plurality of legacy systems wherein the systems interface is protected from the legacy systems by a firewall, and wherein the systems interface provides multiple operations that may be utilized for generating transactions with the legacy systems, wherein the legacy systems comprise at least one of a loop facility assignment control system, a loop maintenance operations system, a mechanized loop testing system, a secure network element contract server, a mechanized time reporting system, and a work activity statistical sampling plan; and

a computer, wherein the computer includes at least one memory programmed with software for performing the following:

providing a graphical user interface that has a page for selecting one of the multiple operations provided by the systems interface for the client application and has a page for each of the multiple operations wherein when an operation is selected the corresponding page is displayed,

receiving a request to input by voice;

activating a speech recognition module in response to the request, wherein the speech recognition module has, ~~in advance of the user accessing each of the pages,~~ a voice module that accesses a stored separate vocabulary for each of the pages for selecting and performing the multiple operations utilized for generating the legacy transactions on the legacy systems including a vocabulary for each of the pages ~~corresponding to the multiple operations provided by the protocol server such that the speech recognition application utilizes the voice module corresponding to the page that is displayed by the client application upon the user selecting the corresponding operation;~~

converting voice inputs into a user request for information by using the separate vocabulary ~~voice module~~ corresponding to the page that is displayed;

sending the user request for information to the systems interface; and

receiving data responsive to the user request.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the user inputs comprises at least one of selecting an option and entering data for that option.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method for allowing a user to access data, comprising:

logging onto a systems interface to legacy systems, wherein the legacy systems comprise at least one of a loop facility assignment control system, a loop maintenance operations system, a mechanized loop testing system, a secure network element contract server, a mechanized time reporting system, and a work activity statistical sampling plan;

providing a graphical user interface that has a page for selecting one of the multiple operations provided by the systems interface for the client application and has a page for each of the multiple operations wherein when an operation is selected the corresponding page is displayed,

activating a speech recognition module in response to the request, wherein the speech recognition module has, ~~in advance of the user accessing each of the pages,~~ a voice module that accesses a stored separate vocabulary for each of the pages for selecting and performing the multiple operations utilized for generating the legacy transactions on the legacy systems including a vocabulary for each of the pages ~~corresponding to the multiple operations provided by the protocol server such that the speech recognition application utilizes the voice module corresponding to the page that is displayed by the client application upon the user selecting the corresponding operation;~~

receiving voice inputs from the user;

converting the voice inputs to a user request by using the separate vocabulary ~~voice module~~ corresponding to the page that is displayed;

sending the user request to the systems interface; and

receiving data from the systems interface in response to the user request.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for input by voice; and
activating the speech recognition module in response to the request for input by voice.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of converting the voice inputs to a user request comprises converting the voice inputs to user inputs and converting the user inputs into the user request.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the user input comprises one of selecting an operation and providing information for an operation.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the systems interface comprises a protocol server and a transaction server.